

On behalf of Friends of KEXP, I encourage the Commission to expedite its completion of its IBOC rules.

The notion of digital broadcasting is exciting to our organization in terms of higher audio quality and greater capacity to provide public serve. We are especially excited about the prospects for the supplemental audio channel (SAC). A permanent authorization of SAC will enable our organization to plan and build new services.

Scarcity of channels constrains public service to our community. SAC will provide Friends of KEXP a historic opportunity to double its public service capacity. We envision multiplexing programming to serve more people within more communities outside of our current listenership.

In pursuit of our cultural mission to enrich people's lives, we plan to program SAC with content designed to extend and deepen the listener's experience of a wide and deep array of contemporary music. We feel the American people deserve greater, more meaningful service from the public airwaves. A permanent authorization of SAC will serve as a major catalyst.

Sincerely,

Tom Mara
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